

REMARKS

The examiner has noted that the priority document, i.e. a certified copy of the Japanese application 2004-090350 has not been received. It is submitted that this is incorrect. This application is a PCT National Phase Entry of International Application: PCT/JP2005/005116. Attached is a copy of form PCT/IB/304 for PCT/JP2005/005116 indicating that the priority document for Japanese application 2004-090350 has been received for this case. In the event that this information is in any way insufficient, attached is a Request to Retrieve Electronic Priority Applications(s) for this case.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C.103 as being unpatentable for obviousness over Kato, et al. With regard to catalyst claims 1-13 and 19-20, it respectfully submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome by this amendment whereby these claims have now been re-submitted as method claims depending from claim 14. With regard to claim 14 and the claims depending from claim 14, it is respectfully that this ground of rejection is not well taken.

The broadest claim now being prosecuted is:

14. (ORIGINAL) A method for producing a catalyst comprising the steps of: producing a metal salt solution containing salts of one or more metals; dispersing the metal salt solution, an organic matter and a porous carrier made of one or more metal oxides in a solvent to form a composite complex comprising one or more metal ions having 10 to 50,000 atoms and the organic matter bonded to the metal ions, and to simultaneously make the composite complex carried on the porous carrier; and calcining the carrier having the composite complex carried thereon.

In no way does Kato, et al. teach or suggest this process. The claims require the step of dispersing a metal salt solution containing salts of one or more metal salts, an organic component, and a porous carrier made of one or more metal oxides, in a solvent to form a composite complex..... The metal complex comprises one or more metal ions having 10 to 50,000 atoms. The organic matter is bonded to the metal ions. The result is to simultaneously make the composite complex be carried on the porous carrier. Thereafter the carrier having the composite complex carried thereon is calcined.

Kato, et al. does not teach forming a dispersion of the metal salt(s), organic component, and porous carrier in a solvent. Rather, in the case closest to this invention, Kato, et al forms a composition of metal salt solution and organic component, and then *impregnates a solid carrier* with this composition with subsequent calcining. Unlike the present invention, the Kato, et al carrier is never dispersed in a solvent together with their metal salt(s), and organic component.

Kato, et al forms a catalysts comprising precious metal particles on a carrier, which carrier comprises titania and a metal oxide (col. 2, lines 8-15). Their goal is to prevent the agglomeration of precious metal fine particles when heated on typical carriers of alumina and titania (col. 2 lines 23-34). Their carriers can be formed by merely mixing the titania and metal oxide, or molding, kneading, impregnating or co-precipitating the titania and metal oxide components (col. 3, lines 1-46). Notice that these are necessarily carriers in solid form. Then the precious metal component is applied to the solid carrier by impregnating, kneading, or the like (col. 3, lines 50-55). Alternatively a solution of colloidal precious metal particles is coated on the carrier followed by drying and calcining (col. 4, lines 3-9). This colloidal form of precious metal particles may be formed

with a polymer (col. 4, lines 28-45, and col. 5, lines 13-17). As an example, in Example 1 (at column 6, lines 16-20), the molded article (carrier) is impregnated with an aqueous solution of a precious metal salt, dried and calcined).

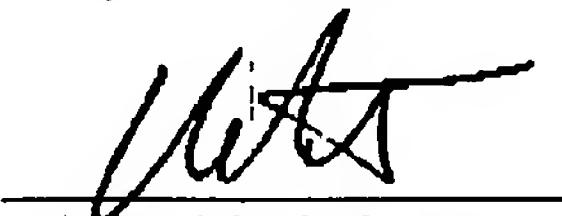
As one can see, this invention and Kato, et al both form a composite complex carried on a carrier. However, Kato, et al never disperses a metal salt solution containing salts of one or more metal salts, an organic component, and a porous carrier made of one or more metal oxides, in a solvent to form a composite complex. There is no teaching in Kato, et al of a metal complex which comprises one or more metal ions have 10 to 50,000 atoms and wherein the organic matter is bonded to the metal ions.

Although the examiner states that Kato, et al discloses a method which reads on claim 14, this is incorrect. Column 4, line 28 to column 5, line 5 of Kato, et al discloses that a rare earth metal oxide as a carrier and an adjusted colloidal metal particle should be mixed. In contrast, the method of claim 14 of this invention defines a method for producing a catalyst comprising the steps of mixing a solution containing precious metal ions which has not yet adjusted to a colloid, a metal oxide as a carrier, and an organic (e.g. polymeric) compound (as a protective agent); and then calcining the carrier in the solution. As a further distinction, the solution of Kato, et al has a colloidal precious metal particle loaded on the carrier. The present invention has a metal composite complex comprising precious metal ions, an organic (e.g. polymeric) on the carrier. Thus the conditions of this invention and those of Kato, et al are very different.

For these reasons it is respectfully asserted that the rejection of the above claims in view of Kato, et al has been obviated or overcome by the instant amendment.

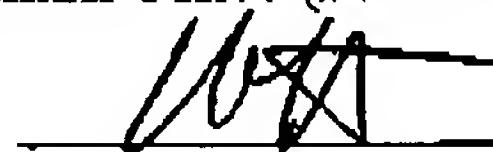
The undersigned respectfully requests re-examination of this application and believes it is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested. If the examiner believes there is any matter which prevents allowance of the present application, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted to arrange for an interview which may expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. (571) 273-8300) on November 13, 2008.


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